

HEGEMAN REFUSED \$10,000

SATISFIED WITH SALARY.

Caretaker Tells of Mutual's Albany "House of Mirth."

A president of an insurance company who would not permit his salary to be increased was discovered at the insurance investigation at the City Hall yesterday. This president, John R. Hegeman of the Metropolitan Life, admitted that he was worth \$90,000 annually to his company. He made it perfectly clear, however, that an attempt of his directors to increase this to \$100,000 would fail. After Presidents McCurdy and McCall, Mr. Hegeman was a disappointment in the salary line. The gloom caused by his position on the subject of remuneration was somewhat lightened by the appearance of M. E. Mullaney, the caretaker of the Mutual's "House of Mirth" for legislative purposes at Albany. Mr. Mullaney occupied an hour of the afternoon in telling about his absolute ignorance regarding the interesting details of this resort ruled by the mysterious and evanescent "Al" Fields.

Mr. Mullaney's mental sufferings on the witness stand were agonizing to watch. He was nervous to begin with. When Mr. Hughes began to show him various vouchers bearing his signature, he became absolutely panicky. If there was any reason why some vouchers for money he spent in groceries and in housekeeping expenses generally were indorsed "legal expenses," others "travelling expenses," and still others "sundries" it was unknown to Mr. Mullaney. To be sure, he knew he was not a lawyer, that his "travels" were only between New York and Albany, and he ventured to speculate that the "sundries" were just commonplace housekeeping charges.

But Mr. Hughes' invitation to him to explain the reasons that might interest the Mutual policyholders in this use of their money quite "floored" him, and his agitation was most painful to witness.

There was an impressive list of these vouchers, stretching back as far as 1900 and averaging about \$1,000 a year. Mr. Beck, of the Mutual's legal staff, ventured the suggestion that Mr. Mullaney had used some of this money to buy railroad tickets for Mr. Fields. This relieved the witness for a moment. Mr. Hughes, however, was unkind enough to inspect vouchers for periods when Mr. Fields was not in Albany, and then the witness's sufferings began all over again.

On the whole Mr. Mullaney was a good Mutual witness. Mr. Fields could hardly have done better himself. He recalled no one who had been at the "House of Mirth"; he never had carried money to any one for any one. He was sure that his pay was \$75 a month and he sometimes ran errands for Fields to the Mutual office in New York. By dint of much mental effort he finally recalled seeing P. F. Dutcher at Albany. Another herculean struggle of memory brought back the fact that Dutcher was a brother-in-law of Fields. But he could not recall that Dutcher had been with Fields in the famous lively stable school at Dobbs Ferry, where one insurance examiner of the State Department had been educated. He was sure he had not seen Fields for at least two months, although his pay was still running on all right.

Mr. Hegeman's remarks as to salary were the feature of the morning session. He supplied a list of his salary and commission receipts as president of the Metropolitan Life which had an attractive appearance. It was not, however, at all comparable with the fruit that has been shown to have ripened on the McCurdy plum tree. The list follows:

1892	.....	\$87,000	1900	.....	\$68,750
1893	.....	72,000	1901	.....	81,250
1894	.....	80,000	1902	.....	50,000
1895	.....	83,474	1903	.....	50,000
1896	.....	50,000	1904	.....	50,000
1897	.....	51,000	1905	.....	\$75,000
1898	.....	50,000			
1899	.....	60,000	Total	.....	\$1,027,774